

S E C R E T 210059Z MAY 74

25X1

HAKTO 121

MAY 20, 1974

FOR GENERAL SCOWCOFT

FROM: SECRETARY KISSINGER

1. OUR INTEREST SECTION IN DAMASCUS HAS BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION SEVERAL UNHELPFUL RECENT VOA BROADCASTS (DAMASCUS 815). PLEASE ASK VOA TO LAY-OFF ANY DISCUSSIONS OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE POSSIBLE AGREEMENT FOR NOW. THE SYRIANS ARE VERY EDGY ABOUT WHAT IS BEING BROADCAST ABOUT THE AGREEMENT, AND BROADCASTS SUCH AS THOSE CITED COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE SYRIANS.

2. BEST REGARDS.

BT

0121

State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

SECRET

21 MAY 64 0118z

May 20, 1974

HAKTO 121

FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: SECRETARY KISSINGER *LMK*

1. Our Interest Section in Damascus has brought to my attention several unhelpful recent VOA broadcasts (Damascus 815).

Please ask VOA to lay-off any discussions of the substance

of the possible agreement for now. The Syrians are very edgy

about what is being broadcast about the agreement, and broadcasts such as those cited could have a negative effect ~~on the Syrians~~ on the Syrians.

2. Best regards

VOA has unhelpful  
commentary (according to  
Scotes) on agreement in  
a broadcast monitored  
in Damascus.

S/S-15

## CONFIDENTIAL

Z 0 202148Z MAY 74

Classification

21MAY74//0011AM

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO RUESJR/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH 170

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 596

RUSAD/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 180

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0815

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: VOA NEWSCAST ON CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS

ON BOTH ENGLISH AND ARABIC VOA NEWSCAST LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNIGN (MAY 20 AND MAY 21), ANNOUNCER, CITED JERUSALEM AND BEIRUT PRESS AND PROVIDED FOLLOWING DETAILS ON CURRENT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS:

A. RETURN OF ALL TERRITORY CAPTURED IN OCTOBER WAR AND SOME LAND SEIZED DURING '67 WAR. TERRITORY SAID TO INCLUDE KUNEITRA AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL LANDS. SYRIAN SETTLERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO UN-ADMINISTERED BUFFER ZONE SET UP BETWEEN THE TWO ARMIES. MUCH FOUGHT-OVER MOUNT HERMON WILL BE PLACED UNDER UNITED NATIONS CONTROL.

B. PRESIDENT NIXON WAS SAID TO BE PLEASED BY PROGRESS MADE TOWARD DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND INSTRUCTED SECRETARY TO STAY IN AREA AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE WORK. COMMENT: I DO NOT THINK THAT THE ABOVE STORY IS HELPFUL IN DAMASCUS, WHERE THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT ISN'T ILL OBVIOUSLY CONTROLLING NEWS ABOUT THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS AND PARTICULARLY DETAILS OF THESE TALKS. EVEN THOUGH THE VOA NEWSCASTER CITED BEIRUT AND JERUSALEM NEWSPAPERS AS THE SOURCES FOR THE ABOVE INFORMATION, IN THE MINDS OF THE SYRIANS THE FACT THAT THE STORY IS CARRIED OVER VOA, WHICH IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, CONFIRMS THE STORY.

SCOTES

*Voa could any doubt  
on substance of*

*agreed* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Classification

FORM 4-68 FS-412(H)

*Syrians info*